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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 020910

13
ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66651
DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:RWINSTANLEY
APPROVED BY:S/S-O:JMEALUM
---------- 085445
R 292033Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO SECDEF
CINCPAC
JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020910

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENTIANE 674 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK
CANBERRA 29 JAN 75

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0674

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF; CINCPAC; CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

D/PW FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA
SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY LETTER ON DEAN/SHARMAN
CASE

REF: A) VIENTIANE 0436
B) CANBERRA 0544

1. FOLLOWING IS AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY'S ENGLISH TRANSLATIOON
OF LETTER IN FRENCH TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PHOUMI
VONGVICHIT FROM AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR BORTHWICK CON-
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CERNING DEAN/SHARMAN, DATED JANUARY 21.

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2. BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE -
EXCELLENCY,
YOU WILL FORGIVE ME I HOPE FOR FINDING SOMEWHAT DISTURBINGTHAT PART OF OUR CONVERSATION YESTERDAY WHICH DEALT WITH THE CASE OF THE AUSTRALIAN, NEIL SHARMAN, NOW IN THE CUSTODY OF THE NEO LAO HAK SAT. AS YOU WILL BE AWARE WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO SHARE WITH THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES WHHATEVER INFORMATION IS MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE APPROPRIATE LAO AUTHORITIES. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPPORTUNITY TO REFER TO THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO YOU ON JANUARY 20 BY MY COLLEAGUE, MR. WHITEHOUSE, AND TO SAY THAT THEE INFORMATION SET OUT THEREIN SEEMS CLEARLY TO ESTABLISH THE IMPRISONMENT OF MR. SHARMAN AS EARLIER REPORTED. IT FOLLOWS FROM THIS THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, AND PUBLIC OPINION IN AUSTRALIA, WILL EXPECT THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES OF THE NEO LAO HAK SAT TO DISCHARGE THEIR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THEIR PRISONER.
INDEED, IN VIEW OF THE LAPSE OF TIME SINCE THE EVENTS COVERED BY THE REPORT MOST RECENTLY MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU I HOPE THAT I MAY BE PERMITTED TO LOOK FORWARD THE SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER BY THE EARLY RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS AND THEIR RETURN IN SAFETY TO THEIR FAMILIES. WHATEVER TRESPASSES THESE TWO YOUNG MEN MAY UNWITTINGLY HAVE COMMIITTED ARE SURELY DISCHARGED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR IMPRISONMENT UNTIL NOW.
IN THIS CONNECTION MAY I EXPRESS MY THANKS AND APPRECIATION OF THE TIME YOU HAVE SO FREELY MADE AVAILABLE TO MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES FOR THE DISCUSSION OF MR. SHARMAN'S CASE, AND REAFFIRM MY HOPE THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE THE ISSUE MAY SOON BE DISPOSED OF IN THE MOST FAVORABLE WAY.
(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE) UNQUOTE.
END TEXT.

3. FOR CANBERRA: BORTHWICK'S WEAK AND WORDY LETTER CONFIRMS OUR VIEWS STATED IN PARA 5 REFTEL A. WE DO NOT EXPECT BORTHWICK TO ADOPT A MORE VIGOROUS POSTURE
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UNLESS HE IS FURTHER PRODDED BY GOA. WE APPRECIATE CANBERRA'S EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD.
WHITEHOUSE
END QUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: O:RWINSTANLEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA, US, AS, (PHOUMI VONGVICHIT), (DEAN, CHARLES M), (SHARMAN, NEIL), (BORTHWICK)
To: DOD JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI
Type: TE
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